

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-11 L-03 DRC-01 RSC-01 /050 W

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R 141637Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4871

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 8062

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR COHEN AF/C FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: GOZ WET LEASE OF BOEING 747 AIRCRAFT

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO FRANK LOY, PAN AMERICAN
VICE PRESIDENT, NEW YORK FROM AMBASSADOR.

2. WHEN LOY WAS IN KINSHASA GOZ RELUCTANTLY DECIDED
TO CANCEL PURCHASE OF A BOEING 747 AND TO SIGN WET LEASE
CONTRACT WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE WITH PANAM INSTEAD
UNDER CERTAIN SPECIFIC CONDITIONS. MOST IMPORTANT
CONDITION WAS THAT AIRCRAFT BE NEW SINCE THIS IS A
PRESTIGE MATTER OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO PRESIDENT WHO
REACTED UNFAVORABLY TO THE OLDER DC8-33'S PURCHASED
SECONDHAND. LOY MENTIONED TO EKETEBI TWO MONTHS
747'S AS YET UNUSED COMMERCIALY. FYFE WAS ALSO TOLD
OF THE CONDITION THAT THE PLANE BE A NEW ONE WHEN
HE AND WALLACE MET DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO US IN
CONNECTION WITH EXIM NEGOTIATIONS.

3. I AM NOW INFORMED THAT THERE ARE LEGAL PROBLEMS
WITH THIS PLAN SINCE PANAM HAS NOT TAKEN TITLE TO
THESE PARTICULAR PLANES. I AM DISMAYED TO LEARN THAT
PANAM NOW CONTEMPLATING REFURBISHING THE SECOND OR
THE THIRD BOEING 747 TO COME OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE

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WITH THE IDEA THAT ZAIRE WILL NOT REALIZE THAT THE

PLANE IS NOT NEW. IN MY VIEW, THIS WILL NOT WASH
AND WHEN MOBUTU LEARNS FROM SERIAL NUMBERS OR
OTHERWISE THAT HE IN FACT HAS ONE OF THE FIRST
747'S OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE RATHER THAN THE LATEST
ONE, GRAVE DAMAGE WILL BE DONE TO PAN AMERICAN-
ZAIRIAN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY GIVEN ZAIRE'S VERY
CLEAR WISHES THIS MATTER FROM THE START AND GOZ'S
WILLINGNESS TO PAY HIGH PRICE FOR THIS EQUIPMENT.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR URGENT INTERVENTION WITH
WILLIAM CRILLY IN THIS MATTER TO SEE TO IT THAT A
NEW OR VERY RECENT PLANE IS PROVIDED. I WOULD
ALSO APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED URGENTLY AS TO WHAT
CAN BE DONE.
VANCE

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